REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of the office action dated September 13, 2007, and completion of the personal interview of November 7, 2007. The Examiner's suggestions and observations are much appreciated and summarized herein. Claims 22-47 have been cancelled, and new claims 48-65 are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

Claim 33 was objected to due to an informality. As claim 33 has been cancelled, this objection is moot.

Claims 23-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,535,307 to Allen et al. Claims 22-47 have been cancelled, and new claims 48-65 are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

The subject application is directed to a method and apparatus for color balancing an image output device having an image output engine. Electronic document data encoded in a multidimensional component color space is first received, wherein the electronic document data defines an image. The image comprises a centralized image portion, including colorization highly sensitive to variations to relative intensities of component values, a plurality of selectable color regions extending generally radially from the centralized image portion, wherein each color region corresponds to a bias color associated with the centralized image portion, and a plurality of selectable bias values associated with each color region, wherein bias values are reflected as being graduated relative to an associated color region and a radial distance from the centralized image portion. A color image is outputted in accordance with the electronic document data and visually compared with a reference. An adjustment parameter is received in accordance with at least one selected color region and associated bias value selected after the step of visually comparing and image output engine colorization parameters are adjusted based on the adjustment parameter.

In contrast to the forgoing, Allen is directed to an imaging system wherein calibration images are chosen such that portions are sensitive to various imaging characteristics. Thus, each image portion can be used to discern relative characteristics of an output device. Conversely, the subject application teaches a system for color balance calibration which employs a centrally disposed color image. The radially extensive color regions facilitate visual continuity between the centralized image portion and each of the color regions. A user is therefore able to follow

colors from the centralized image to each color region. To facilitate adjustment, a user selects an identifier associated with a region, and then selects a bias value from within the selected region. This information is suitably fed back to a rendering device, such as a color printer, through a computer interface or front panel to allow for adjustment of subsequent renderings. The relative orientation of the color component selections and the centralized image, coupled with a user's selection of a component and associated bias, provides for an improved system and method for easily and quickly optimizing output.

Modification to the claims has been made in accordance with the afore-noted discussions. All claims now include limitations wherein a centralized image portion includes radially extending color regions. Selection of a particular region, coupled with section of a bias value within this region, allows for improving color rendering of images. It is submitted that this is far removed from the art of record, and that all claims are in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/24815.

Respectfully submitted,

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